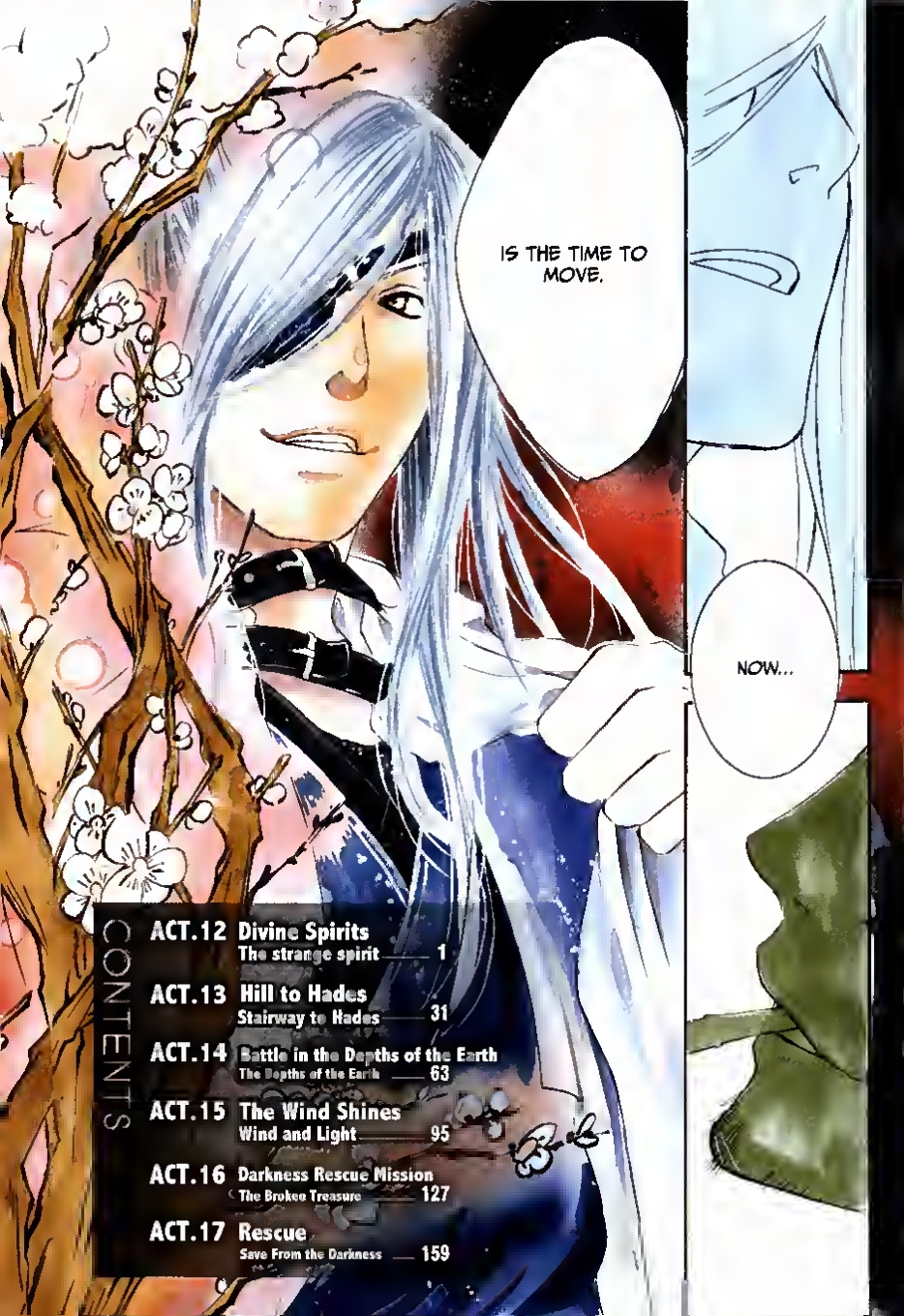
霜月かいり
BRAVE
ブレイブ-テン
3
KAIRI SHIMOTSUKI
dmg
A Digital Manga Guild Publication

NOW THEN,
WHOOSH
FWUP
A GOOD WIND'S GOING TO START BLOWING.
HASTINESS...
HMM.
USUALLY GETS YOU IN TROUBLE LATER ON.

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ISN'T THE TIME TO MOVE
BRAVE 10
ブレイブ-テン
Kairi Shimotsuki 霜月かいり
3

TSUNA-MOTO!
WE AREN'T FAR FROM IZUMO, NOW.
SOMETIMES YOU JUST HAVE TO CHECK ON THINGS WITH YOUR OWN EYES.
IT SHOULD PROVE FUN.
?!
UH..
...IF YOU SAY SO.
SHUDDER
UM... MY LORD..
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?!
I SURE DO.
UM...
OH.
HMM?!

OH!
WHAT A SURPRISE, RUNNING INTO YOU TWO WAY OUT HERE!
AHAH, ICHIMARU AND NIKO!
BOMP
BOMP
BOMP
WH-WH-WH-WHAT BRINGS Y-Y-YOU HERE, MY LORD?!
AHAH.
OH, THAT.
I PASSED THAT OFF ONTO KOJURO.
NO PROBLEM!!
AND WHAT ABOUT THE CASTLE?!
IF IT'S LORD IS HERE, THEN-
PASSED IT OFF...?
BECAUSE OLD MAN IBYASU ISN'T VERY USEFUL.
VERY GOOD, BUT WHAT FOR..?
IT'S FINALLY GOTTEN ON MY LAST NERVE.

IF RELYING ON OTHER PEOPLE DOESN'T YIELD THE DESIRED RESULTS,
THEN WOULDN'T DOING THINGS YOURSELF GET IT DONE FASTER?!
THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO IZUMO.
HUH?!
THEN... WHAT ABOUT US KEEPING TABS ON THOSE TOKUGAWA GUYS?
BLUNT
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT ANYMORE.
!!
YOU DIDN'T SEND ANY MAJOR NEWS ANYWAY,
AND IEYASU WILL STAY PUT FOR A WHILE.
THERE'S NO POINT IN YOU STILL WORKING WITH THEM.
YOU TWO CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT NOW.
UH... MY LORD?!

CLOP
CLOP
LATER, ICHI!! NI!!
FARE-WELL.
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PULL OFF SOMETHING GOOD TO IMPRESS LORD MASAMUNE..
ARGH! WE REALLY DID LOSE OUR JOBS!!
WE'RE GONNA STARVE TO DEATH!!
WHAT DO WE DO NIKO?!
WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT BACK HOOOME!!
TCH!
THEN LET'S JUST KILL THOSE SANADA GUYS BEFORE HE DOES!
WON'T THEY GET IN HIS WAY, SINCE HE'S GOING TO IZUMO?!
THAT'S TRUE...

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO GET TO THEM FIRST.
ABOUT OUR EARLIER DISCUSSION, MY LORD. WHAT IDEAS DID YOU PUT IN LORD IEYASU'S HEAD?
Clop
Clop
"KUSHIMITAMA."
HUH?!

WHAT... IS THAT?
THE KUSHIMITAMA.
IT'S A VESTIGE OF A GOD'S SPIRIT,
HERE IN THIS WORLD.
AHAH. A GOD... MY LORD?
THIS SOUNDS LIKE SOME FANTASY..
ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF IT?!
I GUESS IT WOULDN'T MEAN MUCH IF YOU'RE INTO THOSE POPULAR FOREIGN TYPES LIKE BUDDHA AND GUANYIN...
WELL, WHATEVER.
I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT, SO LISTEN UP.
RIGHT NOW, THE ONES WHO REIGN SUPREME IN THIS WORLD,
ARE WE SAMURAI...
IN OTHER WORDS, HUMANS
Y-YES... MY LORD...

HOWEVER, IN THE DISTANT PAST HEAVEN AND EARTH WERE CREATED BY THE GODS,
AND THE GODS RULED OVER ALL OF IT.
THEY ALSO MADE THE LAWS OF NATURE,
WHICH ARE STILL IN EFFECT TODAY.
HUMAN LIFE AND DEATH,
CLIMATE AND CALAMITY,
ABUNDANT HARVESTS AND FAMINE... ALL OF IT OBEYS THOSE LAWS.
WE ARE NO EXCEPTION.
SO... WHAT EXACTLY IS THE KUSHI-MITAMA...?

THE KUSHIMITAMA IS ONE OF FOUR SPIRITS GIVEN TO THE HUMANS,
BY THE GODS, LONG AGO.
THE GIFT WAS GIVEN SO THAT HUMANS CAN GOVERN THE WORLD IN PLACE OF THE GODS.
GOVERN... THE WORLD?
THAT'S RIGHT.
THE FOUR SPIRITS USE THEIR RESPECTIVE POWERS TO MAINTAIN THE WORLD'S BALANCE...
AND THEY EACH HAVE CHANGED INTO ANOTHER FORM, REMAINING HIDDEN SOMEWHERE TO THIS DAY.
OF THE FOUR, WHY THE KUSHIMITAMA?
THE KUSHIMI-TAMA...
SUPPRESSES UNREST IN THE WORLD OF MAN
THAT'S ONE OF THE LAWS OF THE GODS.

IEYASU TOKUGAWA DESIRES UNREST, AND I MANAGED TO CONVINCE HIM TO LOOK FOR THE KUSHIMITAMA, WHICH SUPPOSEDLY IS IN IZUMO,
BUT THE OLD MAN'S USELESS.
I'M TIRED OF WAITING
I'LL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE LAWS OF THE GODS, AND USE IT TO SHAKE UP THE WORLD!
I'LL TEAR DOWN THE PRECARIOUS BALANCE WE'VE HAD SINCE HIDEYOSHI TOYOTOMI DIED!
I'LL FIND THE KUSHIMITAMA AND DESTROY IT!
EXACTLY.
HEHE
THEN, YOU MEAN TO...!
UNREST IN THE WORLD..

I'LL PERSONALLY MAKE THIS WIND BLOW!!
IF I'M A SAMURAI, I'LL WAGER EVERYTHING ON MY SWORD!!
FIGHTING IS WHAT A WARRIOR DOES!!
HE FIGHTS WITH HIS OWN SWORD, HIS OWN STRENGTH...
AND WHAT LIES BEYOND THAT IS THE REALM!!
SO... IN THAT CASE,

IF HE'D BEEN A WARRIOR TWENTY YEARS AGO... OF THE GENKI OR TENSHO ERAS, THEN HE DEFINITELY WOULD'VE HAD WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN THE REALM...
EVEN HIDEYOSHI TOYOTOMI FEARED MY LORD..
ONE THING'S FOR SURE...
I HAVE A FEELING I WON'T LOSE.
HE'S PLANNING TO.. *CALL THE WIND AND SUMMON THE RAIN.
BWOOOSH
SWIRL
*IDIOM: TO STIR UP TROUBLE

THE RISING DRAGON OF OSHU.
HE SURELY IS...

I'M STUFFED.
WHEW!
SO MUCH FOOD.
I LOOOVE SWEETS!
YOU EAT SO MUCH.
UGH... I ATE TOO MUCH SWEET STUFF.
YOU COULD'VE GIVEN SOME TO ME!
BURP
EHEHEH...
YOU'RE WELCOME!
THANK YOU!
IT'S THANKS TO YOU THAT WE COULD ENJOY THIS GOOD FOOD, ISANAMI.
90°
ペコッ
BOW

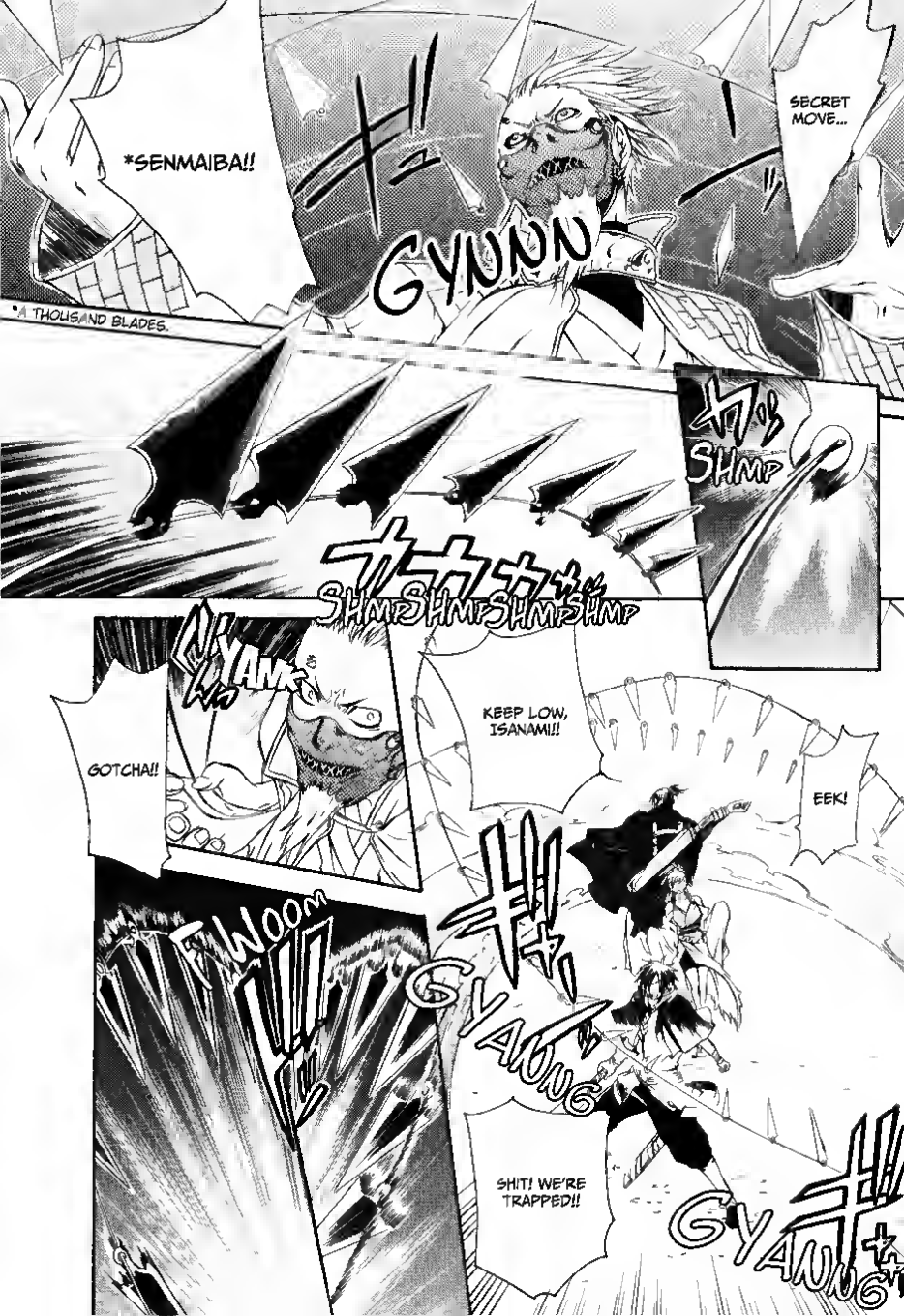
REALLY?!
YOUR DANCING WAS PRAISEWORTHY, THOUGH
I WAS IMPRESSED!
...
EH HEH HEH HEH HEH.
I'M GLAD!
MAYBE YOU COULD EVEN BECOME A NINJA, WITH THAT AGILITY!
AND EVEN I GOT TO BE... USEFUL...

KO
FREEZE
I WAS JUST KIDDING.
WOW!! HE JUST PROPOSED TO MEEE!
FAIL
YOU... MEANIE.
POUT
REALLY?!
Y-YOU MEAN, BECOME A NINJA AND STAY WITH YOU FOREVER?!
BATHUMP
BATHUMP
POUNCE
THAT AGAIN?!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND YET?!
SO STUBBORN
HE'S GOTTEN USED TO THIS.
FWMP
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?!
GIRLS MUSTN'T FIGHT.

I'M A BRAVE, TOO!!
BUT ANA FIGHTS, TOO!!
AND IN THAT GETUP TO BOOT!
LIKE I SAID BEFORE, ANA IS A NINJA.
...!
SIGH
A PURE GIRL IN THE PRIESTHOOD HAS NO BUSINESS GOING DOWN THE PATH OF CARNAGE.
LEAVE THE FIGHTING TO MEN.
WHAT?!
LET'S GET GOING.
HMPH!

AH, MAN.
PHOOEY
I JUST WANT TO FIGHT LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE...
THANKS! COME AGAIN!!
I'D HOPED THAT THEY MIGHT BE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE..
OH!
CAN I PLEASE HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH?!
FLINCH
YAY!
UM, WELL...
THE IZUMO DANCER?!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, ISANAMI?

SHFF
!!
HE'S WITH SANADA!!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
LUNGE
THEY'RE TOKUGAWA NINJAS!!
WHUMP
SAIZO...
BUT WE NEED THE WORK!!
SHUNK
WE'RE NOT TOKUGAWA...
CHOON
SHOOM
SO HERE WE GO!!


*SENMAIBA!!
GYUUN
SECRET MOVE...
*A THOUSAND BLADES.
SHMP
SHMPSHMPSHMPSHMP
GYAM
GOTCHA!!
KEEP LOW, ISANAMI!!
EEK!
WOOM
GYAUG
SHIT! WE'RE TRAPPED!!
GYAUG

OM MARICI YEH SVAHA!!
SHOM
AIIIEEE!!
CHOMM
EEK!
WHUMP
YAMA
YOU CAN'T JUST DEFEND IN ONE DIRECTION!
SENMAIBA DOESN'T HAVE ANY BLIND SPOTS!!
SHOOM
SO WHAT IF IT DOESN'T?

CLAK
KBLAM
CLAK
BLAM
CLAK
FLING
TCH!
IT'S NOT A PROBLEM, IF HE HAS BACKUP.

CLAK
HOW ABOUT THIS?!
CLAK
CLAK
CLAK
VNN
AHH!
TCH! I'M OUT OF BLADES...!!
CHKNF
WELL, THEN...

HE'S AIMING AT ME!!
YOU GUYS LOSE!
BLAM
GUH!

GUHHH!!
ICHIMARU!!
THUD
OW-OW... SO MUCH FOR IM-PRESSING SOMEONE...
TUG
QUIT TALK-ING!!
BUT NIKO...
FORGET IT, LET'S JUST GO!!
SHAFF
WHAT'S WITH THOSE GUYS, ANYWAY?
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
NOW, DON'T YOU FIND IT TO BE SAFER HAVING TWO MEN AROUND?
HMM?
YEAH...
YUP!

WE.. KIND OF SUCK, DON'T WE...?
DON'T SAY THAT.
WHAT DO WE DO NOW..?
IT'S NOT LIKE I KNOW..
I DO LIKE OUR LORD QUITE A BIT, THOUGH.
WORKING FOR HIM WAS FUN.
YOU SAID IT.
HI!, CHF
BUT... WE'RE NOT OF ANY USE TO HIM...
IT'S PATHETIC
IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN GO BACK TO OUR PROVINCE...
WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING?

MY LORD!!
MY...
YOU'RE ALL BEATEN UP.
WHAT HAPPENED?
THEN, WHY NOT COME WITH ME?
UH... WELL... WE DON'T HAVE ANY PLACE TO GO...
UH.. BUT...
DIDN'T I SAY TO DO WHATEVER YOU WANT?
SO, UH...
THAT MEANS THAT IF YOU WANT TO, THEN YOU CAN COME WITH ME.

CRY
M-MY LORRRRD!!
HE'S SO GENEROUS AND FORGIVING!!
LET'S GET ON OUR WAY, THEN!
YES, MY LORD!
IZUMO'S NOT FAR AWAY NOW.

UEDA
FIGHT VS KAMANOSUKE YURI.
EARNING MONEY WITH ISANAMI'S DANCING.
FIGHT VS ICHIMARU AND NIKO.
IZUMO GRAND SHRINE
KAI
IZU
SURUGA
TOTOMI
SHINANO
MIKAWA
NIDA
ETCHU
SHIMA
KAGA
OWARI
MINO
IGA
OMI
ISE
KAWACHI
YAMATO
YAMASHIRO
WAKASA
KII
IZUMI
SETTSU
TANGO
TANBA
AWAJI
HARIMA
TAJIMA
SANUKI
AWA
BIZEN
TOSA
BITCHU
HOKI
OKI
BINGO
IYO
AKI
IWAMI

SHFF
WE'RE CLOSE...
I THINK YOU CAN SEE IT FROM HERE!
OH!
ISN'T THAT IT?!
AHH! A LOT OF THINGS HAPPENED ON THE WAY, BUT WHAT COUNTS IS THAT WE ARRIVED SAFELY.
WHEWWW

IZUMO GRAND SHRINE!
THERE'S REALLY SOMETHING LEFT HERE?!
IT LOOKS WIPED OUT..
I MEAN,
CLUTCH
...
ANYWAY, LET'S GO TAKE A LOOK!

...
EVERYTHING'S BURNED.
AND I MEAN EVERY-THING.
IF THEY WENT THIS FAR, THEY MUST'VE REALLY WANTED IT... WHATEVER IT IS.
I DON'T LIKE THIS.

TREMBLE
TREMBLE
GUESS WE SHOULD SPLIT UP AND SEARCH...
BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR, SO IF YOU SEE ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS...
...ISANAMI?!
O-OKAY, I'LL LOOK OVER THERE!
I'LL GIVE A LOUD SHOUT IF I FIND ANYTHING!
HEY!! ISANAMI!!
WHA--
YEAH.
DON'T GO OFF ON YOUR OWN.
THERE MIGHT BE ASSASSINS LURKING AROUND, YOU KNOW?!
I'LL BE OKAY!

OKAY.
I'LL TAKE A LOOK AROUND OUTSIDE!
YOU STAY WITH ISANAMI, SAIZO! LIKE YOU SAID, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT DANGERS ARE HERE.
I'LL FIRE OFF A ROUND IF I FIND ANYTHING.
SHONK
GOTCHA!
...
WHAT A HANDFUL SHE IS.

—IT'S ALL SO BLACK...

—IN HERE, TOO...
AND THE WALLS WERE A VIBRANT GREEN...
THIS PILLAR... IT WAS SUCH A PRETTY RED, TOO.
SUCH A COLORFUL...
COMFORTABLE ROOM...

SOMEDAY YOU'LL BE THE BEST DANCER IN IZUMO!!
ISANAMI, YOU'RE SO GOOD AT THIS!!
COME TO THINK OF IT, THEY DID PRAISE MY KAGURA DANCING, AT LEAST...
THE OLDER SHRINE MAIDENS...
THE CHIEF PRIEST...
THEY'RE ALL...
GONE, NOW...
ISANAMI?!

TROMP
DON'T GO OFF ON YOUR OWN I TOLD YOU, IT'S DANGEROUS!!
OKAY?!
TROMP
ZHMM
YEAH ..
THERE'S NOTHING AROUND HERE
WHY DON'T YOU GO LOOK SOMEWHERE ELSE, SAIZO?
SAY WHAT? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ALWAYS SAYS WE SHOULD STICK TOGETHER.
--
AH...
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
HEY...
I JUST...

THE TRUTH IS,
I WAS AFRAID TO SEE IZUMO.

DOESN'T IT...
SEEM THAT WAY?
TOK
BUT..

I MEAN . UNTIL I SAW IT..
I COULD STILL HOPE, YOU KNOW?
LIKE, SOMEONE MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE ..
AND I MIGHT GET TO SEE THEM...

IT REALLY IS ALL GONE, ISN'T IT?
IT... HURTS.

...!
YOUR NOSE!!
WHAP
A HANDFUL, INDEED...
IT WAS LIKE THAT WHEN WE FIRST MET, TOO...
OH...
ACTING SO DAMN TOUGH.
WIPE
KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN UNTIL YOU CLEAN UP!
...
THANKS...
SNFF!
... SURE.

HEY... SAIZO...
I WONDER WHY IT HAPPENED TO IZUMO...
I WONDER WHY IT WAS HERE, AND NOT SOMEWHERE ELSE,
LIKE KASUGA OR ISE...
I GUESS BECAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING HERE?
I MEAN, THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE TO FIND!
I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO SAY...
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN MAKE THE DEAD COME BACK TO LIFE, AND YOU DEFINITELY CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST...
Y-YEAH... THAT'S TRUE

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT'LL TAKE AWAY THE BITTERNESS,
BUT AIN'T IT THE BEST THING A SURVIVOR CAN DO?!
BUT YOU CAN AT LEAST TRY TO FIGURE OUT...
WHY IT ALL HAPPENED, CAN'T YOU?
QUIT CLINGING TO ME!!
THANKS, SAIZO!!
カシ
GRAB
ぎゅうぅぅっ
SQUEEZE
JUST FOR A LITTLE!! YOU'RE WHAT GIVES ME PEACE OF MIND!!
HUH?!
は?!

KBLAM
!!
IF ONLY IT WEREN'T FOR THAT, THINGS WOULD BE PEACEFUL...
THIS THING WE'RE LOOKING FOR..
BUT YOU KNOW ..
CHFF
THAT'S KAKB!!
LET'S GO!!
CLUNK
WHAT?!
WHAAAT?!
EEK!!

NOT A THING!!
...
WHAT GIVES? THIS IS WHERE WE STARTED!
DID YOU FIND SOME-THING?
WHAT IS THIS, *NOBUNAGA ODA?! THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO IF IT'S ALL BURNED!
WHOMP
I WENT ALL AROUND OUT BACK,
BUT IT'S ALL BEEN BURNED DOWN...
THE INSIDE'S ALL BURNT, TOO!
*REFERRING TO THE INCIDENT AT HONNO-JI WHERE NOBUNAGA ODA LOST HIS LIFE. THE TEMPLE HE WAS IN BURNED DOWN AND NOBUNAGA'S REMAINS WERE NEVER ACTUALLY FOUND.

—WHY HASN'T THIS BURNED DOWN?
BECAUSE THAT ARCH-WAY'S MADE OF BRONZE
EVEN SO, THERE SHOULD AT LEAST BE SOOT ON IT
HMM?
WHAT THE...?
!
AH... SAIZO!!

WELL, WELL,
THE HU
WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
NO WONDER NO ONE NOTICED THIS.
PULL

—WHAT DO YOU THINK?!
IT... RESEMBLES SOMETHING..
BUNCH OF CIRCLES. TWO DIFFERENT COLORS.
KRRN
GRRN!
THEN THESE SHOULD MOVE, SHOULDN'T THEY?
OH!
OH... RIGHT! IT'S A YIN YANG SYMBOL!
LET ME SEE!
KRACK
!!
CHOK
UNH!
HRNNN!
IT STOPPED
LOOKS LIKE THERE'S SOME KIND OF TRICK TO IT.
LIKE IT'LL OPEN, IF YOU MAKE IT THE RIGHT SHAPE...

OHHHH!
DON'T STRAIN YOURSELF, OLD MAN!
I MEAN, MAYBE THEY'RE JUST STONES AFTER ALL?
FLICK
AH!
AH!!
GRAB
LET'S SEE...
—I THINK...
WHY IS IT...
STOOP
THAT I REMEMBER THIS...?
THESE DO MOVE.
TWINGE
HUH?

SEE!
I THINK THE ONLY PART YOU MOVE IS HERE IN THE CENTER...
MIND IF I TRY?
STARE
I THINK...
EEEEEEEN
I CAN DO IT...
HERE BEFORE!...
I'VE COME...
GO AHEAD... BUT THEY'RE PRETTY HEAVY.
JUDGING BY KAKEI
OKAY!

SHIPP
HYNN
WHAM
TATAK
TAKT
TAKT
WHOOM
!!
SHAP
SHAP
TATATAK
WHAP

KONNN
...
KONNN
WOW, BUT...
IT FEELS LIKE WE SHOULDN'T GO IN...
KRUNK
IT OPENED!!
WOW!!
KONNN
I'M COMING TOO!!
YEAH.
ANYWAY, LET'S GO AND LOOK!
KAKEI.
DRAG
—WHO'RE THOSE PEOPLE?

THEY'RE THE SANADA GUYS.
THE ONE ALL IN BLACK IS A NINJA.
SANADA... SANA-DAAA?!
OF SHINSHU, MY LORD!
AHH! THAT MINOR DAIMYO OLD IEYASU'S SO EAGER TO THWART!
WHAT ARE HIS PEOPLE DOING HERE?
YUKIMURA MUST BE UP TO SOME-THING
HE DOES SEEM TO HAVE INFORMATION, SHELTERING AN IZUMO SHRINE MAIDEN AND ALL...
HMM.
YUKIMURA SANADA OF SHINSHU... HUH?
IT LOOKS LIKE I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO SEES THINGS FOR WHAT THEY ARE.
INTERESTING.

CLONG
CLONG
CLONG
THIS GOES REALLY DEEP.
I STILL CAN'T SEE WHAT'S UP AHEAD.
I HEARD LONG AGO, THERE WAS A GREAT STAIRWAY AT THE IZUMO GRAND SHRINE
IT WAS SIXTEEN JO (ABOUT 48M) TALL, LIKE IT STRETCHED UP TO THE HEAVENS..
THESE UNDER-GROUND STAIRS ARE ITS EXACT OPPOSITE.
KAKEI..
HNGHH!!
WE'VE GONE DOWN TEN JO (ABOUT 30M) ALREADY.
OPPOSITE, HUH. THEN DO THESE STAIRS LEAD TO HADES?
CUT IT OUT...
SHUDDER

HUH?! YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN IT, SAIZO?!
THAT STUFF DOESN'T EVEN EXIST!
ASTOUNDED
BUT I THOUGHT YOU AND I'D BE CONNECTED IN HADES, EVEN AFTER WE DIE!!
EVEN AFTER WE DIE?!
...I WANT SOME PEACE AND QUIET IN THE AFTER LIFE...
OH?
TNK
I GUESS WE'RE HERE?

IT'S SO DARK THAT IT'S HARD TO SEE ANYTHING...
...!
BWOOF
CHINK
CHINK
HONN
ウ"
FWTT
RUMMAGE

HONN
A DEAD END?!
THMP THMP
THERE'S NOTHING HERE... AND WE CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER...
WHAT THE...

!
TMP
TMP
TMP
SOMETHING'S WRITTEN ON THE ROCK!
AHH?!
WHAT IS THAT?
I THINK IT'S WRITTEN IN ANCIENT IZUMO SCRIPT.
OH! CAN YOU READ IT?!
UH-UH.
THAT'S... HELP-FUL.
HYNN
SO WE CAME ALL THIS WAY FOR NOTHING...

CHOCK
CHOCK
CHOCK
SSTT
SHIT!!
SHFF
WHO'S THERE?!
WELL, WELL. IT WAS WORTH GETTING TO IZUMO FIRST, THEN KEEPING AN EYE ON YOU.

SHANG
I'M GRATEFUL THAT YOU'VE DISCOVERED THIS PLACE FOR US
NOW, IF YOU WOULD... HAND OVER THE KUSHIMITAMA
AH! KUSHI... MITAMA?
THE THING THAT EVERYONE'S TRYING TO FIND,
IS MY HAIRPIN?!

—THE KUSHIMI-TAMA IS...
MY... HAIRPIN!
YES. IT'S AN IMPORTANT GOOD-LUCK CHARM JUST FOR YOU, ISANAMI.
KEEP IT ON YOU AT ALL TIMES.
YOU MUST NEVER PART WITH IT.
I KNEW IT.
THAT THING IS A TIME-BOMB.
FHH
AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE YOU'VE PUT US THROUGH, THAT IS WHAT IT IS?
OH WELL... NOW THAT IT'S BEEN IDENTIFIED,

ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO TAKE IT.
ZHOMM
SHOCK

I WASN'T READY FOR HIM LAST TIME... I'LL MANAGE, IF I CAN KEEP IT TOGETHER!
PANT PANT
TREMBLE TREMBLE
QUIT SHAKING, HANDS!
QUIT CHATTERING, TEETH!
CLAMP
CLENCH
GLANCE
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS PROTECT ISANAMI...

MY HAIR-PIN...
MY..
WHAT AM I, STUPID?!
SHAR
SHFFA
YEAH, RIGHT!!
LIKE WE'RE JUST GOING TO HAND IT OVER!!
THAT'S RIGHT!! WE'LL FIGHT YOU OFF IF YOU TRY TO TAKE IT BY FORCE!!
I CAN'T AFFORD TO GET COLD FEET!!
...
THEN, PLEASE DON'T MAKE IT A BORING FIGHT.

SQUIPM
?!
ZHMMMM
SHAAAA

PLOP
PLOP
WHAP
PLOP
PLOP
WHAT?!
DON'T SHOOT THEM, KAKEI!!
THESE SNAKES BLOW UP IF YOU KILL THEM!!
WHAT IF YOU CUT THEM INSTEAD?!
I'D ALREADY BE DOING IT IF I COULD!
FLOP
—SHIT!
...!!
HISSS
LEAVE THE AUSTERE GENTLEMAN TO ME.
WHUMP
!
ISANAMI?!
OH RIGHT, SHE CAN'T HANDLE SNAKES
FLIP

VERMIN PUPPET SECRET RITE,
GWOMM
JAG-YOKUKEN!!
GLCH
NOW,
TIGHTEN
PLEASURE ME, IF YOU PLEASE.

KAKEI!!
!!
GCHANG
HYNN

SO,
SHUDDER
SHALL WE FINISH THIS QUICKLY?
...YOU INTEND TO FIGHT?
TELL ME, WHO WAS IT THAT LOST SO HORRIBLY TO ME THE OTHER DAY?
YOU DON'T LEARN VERY WELL.
CHANG
CHANG
!
WUP!
YOU JUST CAN'T WAIT TO KILL ME, CAN YOU?!
THP THP
CHAK
BIG SUR-PRISE...

THAT DOESN'T MEAN THIS TIME HAS TO BE THE SAME, NOW DOES IT?!
I... HAVE TO PROTECT HER!!
THERE IS...
NO BACKING DOWN FROM THIS!!
YOU'RE GOING DOWN!!

SHAA
CHING
SHMM
SHOM
WHOCK

OWWW!
SWAY
SHMMM
WHIP
SO FAST...!!
HERE IT COMES...

?!
WHIP
SLAP
CHIFF

BUT... I SEE IT!!
I CAN DO THIS!!
—YOU'RE DOING BETTER.
FWIT
BETTER THAN LAST TIME, AT LEAST.

—NOW THEN,
GET... OFF OF ME!
HNN!!
DON'T BOTHER. YOU'VE BEEN IMMOBI-LIZED.
CREEP
WHAT SHALL I DO WITH YOU?
EEEEEN

縛
EEEE

!!
FIRST, OF ALL..!
DANGLE
LEAN
I SHALL LICK YOU.
WITH MY TONGUE.
HERE, FIRST.
SHRRRP
ヒャヒャヒャ
CHNK
GUH! OHHHH!

HMM.
SHP
NO BOTH SIDES MATCH.
RUB
STRAIN
CURSE YOU...!
STRAIN
YOUR MOST SENSITIVE PLACE?
TOUCH
WHERE SHOULD I GO NEXT?
YOUR BURLY CHEST? OR MAYBE...
REACH

HEY...!
STOP THAT!!
OH! QUITE NICE
A WOMAN SHOULDN'T STRADDLE A MAN LIKE THIS!!
SCHLP
OH MY, YOU'RE A STRANGE ONE.
IT HARDLY MATTERS WHO DOES THE WORK WHEN YOU DO IT.
STRAIN
I LIKE TO BE THE AGGRESSIVE ONE.
SHFF
THAT'S WHY WHAT HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY WAS SO HUMILIATING.
SHHHH

AH...
WHA...
THAT BOY IN YOUR RANKS REALLY DID A NUMBER ON IT.
SHLFF
WILL YOU LOOK UPON THIS BODY?
THEY SAY A WOMAN'S BODY IS HER WEAPON, AND THIS FRUSTRATES ME SO.
I VERY MUCH WANT YOU TO KNOW THIS HUMILIATION, TOO...
COVER YOURSELF! THIS IS INDECENT!!
STRAIN
STRAIN
OH, MY!
YOU'RE SO UPTIGHT...
I ADORE MAKING PEOPLE LIKE YOU CRY.
FWMP
I WANT TO TAKE MY TIME HAVING MY WAY WITH YOU...
BUT I WAS TOLD NOT TO MAKE THIS TAKE TOO LONG.

TCH!
SHHHP
CLANG
SWING
PWP
WHONG
CHIRP
SONU-
VA...!

SLASH
THNK
I USED TO KILL PEOPLE IN THE DARK LIKE THIS...
JUST TO SURVIVE... BUT NOW...
CLENCH
I HAVE TO WIN!!
HE'S GROWN... FASTER.
HE'S ONE MORE REASON THAT I CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE!
THERE'S A GUY WHO TRUSTS ME ENOUGH TO GET THE JOB DONE.

SHUNKO!!
FLASH
CHING
!!
...!

FWASS
THAT ONE...
I NAILED HIM!!

SHOCK
...YOU LITTLE PUNK!
...!!
SHIFF
STAGGER
—YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!!

PAP
!!
PANG
GUH!
GRIP
PLAP
AH?!
OHHN
WHACK
DUP

KASHO
ZANMAI!!
?!
WHUMP
GRIIIND
AH, CRAP...!!
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM

...!!
SHMM
THE END.
SHMM

OTSUMUJI!!
FWOOM!
FWOP
FWOP
?!
WHAT?!
BWOOSH

WHO ARE YOU?!
FLIP
CHOCK
HYNN HYNN
YOU'RE LOOKING LAME, NINJA!
YOU JUST GONNA LET HIM BEAT YOU?!
FROM THE OTHER DAY...!
THAT WIND...
KOFF
KOFF

NEVER HEARD OF HIM!
CHFF
SANADAAA ?!
ARE YOU ANOTHER SANADA BRAVE?!
MUST EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU GET IN MY WAY?!
SHANG
BESIDES!
WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW IS WHO GAVE YOU PERMISSION TO PLAY WITH WHAT'S MINE?!
I'LL KILL YOUR ASS.
AGH?!

Act.15 The Wind Shines / Wind and Light

YOU HAVE TO WONDER WHAT THEY'RE DOING IN THERE,
A THREE-WAY FIGHT.
SOUNDS LIKE FUN.
TEMPTED
YOU KNOW?!
FIRST THE SANADA GROUP, THEN TOKUGAWA NINJAS!!
AND THEN THAT ONE WEIRD FELLOW WENT IN.
I TRUST YOU AREN'T GOING TO SAY... "I'LL JUMP IN TOO,"
RIGHT?!
NO I WON'T SAY IT.
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT?

WHOEVER COMES OUT OF THERE ALIVE...
SHOULD HAVE THE KUSHIMITAMA IN THEIR POSSESSION
THE KUSHIMI-TAMA, HIDDEN IN IZUMO...
TOKUGAWA, ON THE MOVE TO GET IT... AND THEN SANADA.
THEIR PATHS HAVE LED THEM TO THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH...
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS WATCH AND WAIT.
OHHHHN

CHEF
—"WHAT'S MINE"?!
LISTEN UP, MASKED MAN!!
DON'T THINK YOU CAN SNATCH WHAT'S MINE AND JUST GET AWAY WITH IT!!

LI
POINT
YOU SEE, ME AND THAT MAN FOUGHT A FIGHT NEARLY TO THE DEATH...
IT WAS AWE-SOME!!
A FREAKIN' BLAST!!
AND ALSO,
THE ONLY ONE WHO GETS TO BEAT HIM BLOODY IS ME!!
THE ONLY ONE WHO GETS TO KILL ME RIGHT AT THE PEAK OF ECSTASY IS HIM!!
HUH?!
IRKED
PERVERT, HUH ?
TWINGE

SWING
I DON'T WANNA HEAR THAT SHIT FROM YOU, YOU MASKED FREAK!!
WHOmmm
OTSUMUJI!
SSH
!!
THPP

CHAK
CHAK
SHFFFF
VSSHT
AGH?!
VASHT
SLASH!
BEHIND YOU, STUPID!!

TCH!
CHING
CHAK
SHNK
RAHHH!!
WHMM
LEAP

WHOMP
GUHAH!
SWAAAK

WHERE DO YOU GET OFF TREATING ME LIKE AN IDIOT?!
ARGH?!
IDIOT!!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE FIGHTING BADLY,
WHY'RE YOU FIGHTING IN CLOSE?!
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO USE YOUR SKILLS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE!!
AGHH?!
YOU ARE AN IDIOT!
ASS-HOLE!!
SWISH!!
WHOMP
YOU'RE PISSIN' ME OFF WITH ALL THAT SWORD SHIT!!
CHFF
COVER ME FROM THE REAR, UNLESS YOU WANT HIM KILLING US BOTH!!
YOU'RE FUCKIN' GIVIN' ME ORDERS?!

ONCE THIS IS OVER, I'LL PLAY WITH YOU UNTIL YOU BEG FOR MERCY!!
JUST WORK WITH ME A LITTLE HERE!!
UNTIL I BEG FOR MERCY...?!
GULP
HUH...? AH, SURE
SHUDDER
YOU MEAN...
THAT, RIGHT?

YAAA~ HOOO!
WHAT THE...?
I WONDER WHAT HIS DEAL IS..
...
TWITCH
...!!
WHIP
I MOVED! THAT WIND MUST'VE BROKEN THE SPELL.
WHAP
OK?
I CAN DEAL WITH A MERE WOMAN, IF I CAN MOVE!!
EEK!
TWIST
SHOOM
HMM..
KRAK
YOU WON'T ESCAPE ME.

WHAM
A MERE WOMAN, AM I?!
DIG IN
VWOM
I BEG TO DIFFER.
POKT
HYNN
GRAB
WHMP
PLEASE, DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME.
SNAG
DSSH

I'M OKATSU THE SNAKE CHARMER!
LIKE A SNAKE, MY LIMBS WILL CONSTRICT YOU WITH THEIR INTENSE STRENGTH.
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE
NOT EVEN A MAN LIKE YOU CAN MANAGE TO ESCAPE...!
KHAA!
...HRN!
SHAKE
SHAKE
NOW YOU DIE.
TWIST
MWOH!

YOU STRUGGLE IN VAIN!!
FOK
WHIP
!
SO DAMN STRONG
WHAM
!!
WHUP
!!
THUMP
?!
GAPE
KRAKK
!!
YOU'RE DONE FOR!
THERE'S NO OTHER CHOICE...!
SHFF
SHFF
SSHF

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

A HIDDEN...
GUN?!
SWAY
HRRN
SLOW
WHAT A... STALWART...
HEH
HEH
HEH
GENTLE MAN..
TAK
YOU WERE A DETERMINED FIGHTER.
SORRY... FOR TREATING YOU LIKE JUST A "WOMAN."

YURI SICKLE AND CHAIN SECRET TECHNIQUE, FUJINSHO!!
GYEOWN
HOHHN
WHOOOOSH
YOUR WIND IS MOST ANNOY-ING..!!
SWONG
SHOOM

SHMM
WHOM
LEAP
CLONG
THESE TWO... THEY WORK WELL TOGETHER.
BUT...
HOP
SHRAHH
CHEFF

PATANG
KUH!
TCH!!
BWOOSH
NO ONE GETS IN THE WAY OF MY WORK.
CHARGE
STRAIN
STRAIN
STRAIN
KRAHHHHH!!

CHINK
LEAP
KYNN
TIME TO END THIS!!
FWASS
CLANK

WHAM
!! YANK

*FLASH OR GLINT.

...
WHUMP
YOU...

I BEAT YOU, YOU BASTARD!!
HAHA...
HA...
HA...
SWAY
SHUT UP! YOU'D BE IN DEEP SHIT IF I WASN'T HERE!
YEAH, BUT YOU'RE DEAD TIRED TOO!
AND WHATTRE YOU DOING HERE?
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
LET'S HURRY UP AND GET OUT OF HERE, SAIZO!!
WHUMP
WEAK.

PANT
PANT
SHLFF
PANT
PANT
PANT
HEHE
THIS GIRL GONNA STAY OUT?!
CHFF
STILL.. HOW LONG'S
ISANAMI!
HEY, ISANAM!!!
HNN..
THE SURFACE.. FINALLY
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
IT FEELS LIKE WE WERE IN THAT CAVE A LONG TIME...

SAIZO...!
...!
BOLT
!!
OH, YEAH!! SNAKES!!
OH!
HUH...? WE'RE OUT-SIDE...
--YOU'RE HURT...
PANT
PANT

IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
LIKE I SAID, AS LONG AS I STILL OWE YOU FOR THE SOBA!
MHMM. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THAT YOU'RE SAFE.
IT'S NO BIG DEAL?
YOU'D BE IN DEEP SHIT IF I HADN'T HELPED
...
I'M SORRY, IT'S MY FAULT...
IT AIN'T YOUR FAULT...
IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT HAIRPIN, RIGHT?!
THAT'S RIGHT IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT IS THE THING THEY'RE LOOKING FOR..
THE KUSHI-MITAMA... THIS HAIR-PIN...
THAT THE CHIEF PRIEST GAVE ME...

AHAH! SO THAT'S IT.
CLOP
BOABUMP

CHF
THE KUSHIMI-TAMA...
NOW BELONGS TO MASAMUNE DATE!
DUN DUN DUN

ISA-
BUCKLE
UGH!
SHFF
S-STOP!!
SHFF
BUCKLE
BUCKLE
ISANAMI!! HAVE I FAILED TO PROTECT YOU AGAIN?!
GOD DAMN IT!!

FLAP

# Act.16 Darkness Rescue Mission / The Broken Treasure

SOMEBODY'S SHEDDING BLOOD AGAIN.
...!
SAIZO!!

IT'S YOUR FAULT, ISANAMI.
IT'S YOUR FAULT WE DIED,
AND THAT IZUMO WAS ATTACKED.
AND... THAT THIS MAN DIED.
...!

NOOO!!
HAA
HAA
HAAH
WIPE
...
AH!!
BOLT
...?
WHERE AM I?!

LET ME OUT OF HERE!!
WHAM
WHAM!
SEND ME BACK TO UEDA!!
CLANK
CLATA
...
SEND ME BAAACK...

UGH...
UNHH...

HI.
CHFF
...
SAIZO...

ISANAMI!

I WONDER WHAT SAIZO AND THE REST ARE UP TO.. THEY HAVEN'T SENT ANY WORD BACK.
...
THAT'S EVERY DAY, FOR YOU.
AHHH
THIS IS SUCH NICE WEATHER.
DAYS LIKE THIS MAKE ME WANT TO LIE AROUND AND LOOK AT THE SKY ALL DAY.
KREEEEE
THWP
GOOD TIMING!
LET ME REST MY HEAD IN YOUR LAP!
NO!
I HATE SITTING LIKE THAT
YES! IT'S AN ORDER!!
THAT'S MEAN!
MAYBE THAT'S BECAUSE NOTHING'S HAPPENED.
OH! ANA!
*AKEHA!
*NAME OF THE YOUNG OWL MEANING "RED BLADE."

CRINKLE
FLAP
HOOO
THUMP
MESSAGE?!
!
THANKS
SHLLF
WHAT'S UP? ARE THEY ASKING FOR MORE MONEY?
AWP
LORD YUKIMURA!
OR HAVE THEY FOUND SOME—
LIFT

...
灼爍婦僧
灼爍婦僧
HE JUST HAD TO GO AND MAKE A MOVE.
SHFF
WHAT?! WHAT'S WRONG?!
SASUKE, ANASTASIA!
FLINCH
CRUSH
GO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO BRING BACK YOUR FELLOW BRAVE!
DAMNED FLAMBOYANT SOLDIER OF FORTUNE.

AGREE!
SHA
SHA
SASUKE!!
COME ON, WAIT UP A MINUTE!!
GYEOWN
ALL RIGHT, ENOUGH!!
ARE YOU LISTENING?! SASUKE!!
SHOOM

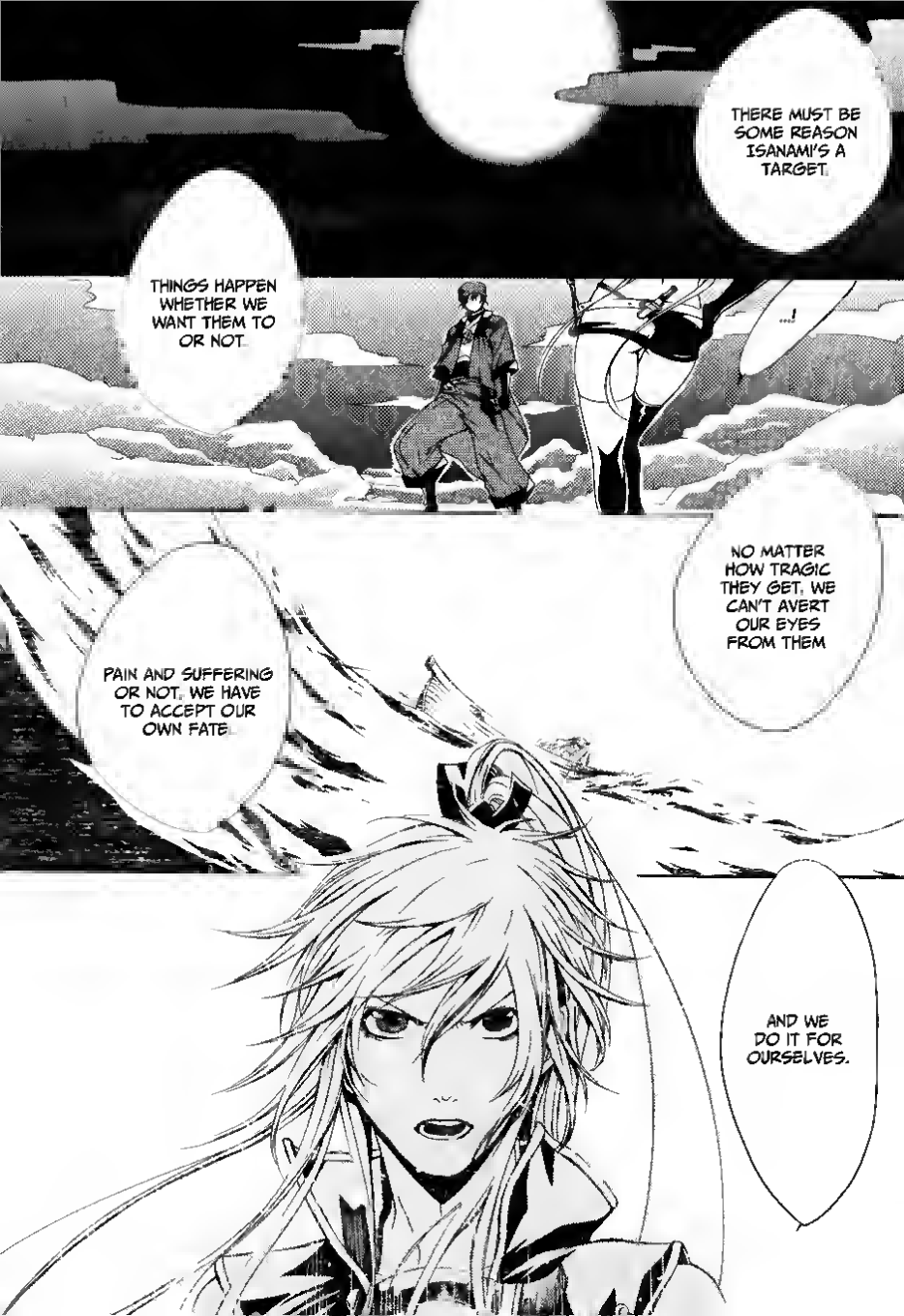
HSHF
I GO AHEAD!
THEN YOU REST!
KEEPING UP WITH YOU AT THIS PACE ISN'T EASY! SLOW DOWN A—
HAH
HAH
STOP!!
SHFF
HYNN
GREAT!
KSSH
CHINK!
!!
SLIP

SEE?
KRINNNK
HASTE MAKES WASTE
WE HAVE TO MOVE CAREFULLY.
WE AREN'T FAR FROM OSHU NOW.

HELD BY ENEMIES... FACING HARDSHIP.
NO... TIME.

HURRY AND RESCUE.
BEFORE SHE'S HURT—
HURT, HUH...
WELL, SHE IS A PRISONER, SO TORTURE'S A SAFE ASSUMPTION.
ESPECIALLY IN THE CASE OF US NINJAS.
ISANA-MI, NOT NINJA!
DIFFERENT FROM US!
POOR GIRL...
SUCH THING HAPPEN TO HER...
POOR GIRL?!

IN WHAT WAY?!
YOU AND SAIZO ARE DESPERATE TO SPARE HER ANY PAIN...
BUT WHAT FOR?!
BECAUSE SHE'S CHEERFUL?!
BECAUSE SHE'S AT THE MERCY OF HER CIRCUMS-TANCES?!
THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
-ANA?!


THERE MUST BE SOME REASON ISANAMI'S A TARGET.
THINGS HAPPEN WHETHER WE WANT THEM TO OR NOT.
...!
NO MATTER HOW TRAGIC THEY GET, WE CAN'T AVERT OUR EYES FROM THEM
PAIN AND SUFFERING OR NOT, WE HAVE TO ACCEPT OUR OWN FATE.
AND WE DO IT FOR OURSELVES.

I WANT TO PROTECT.
-BUT,
"PAMPERING" ISN'T THE SAME AS "PROTECTING."
THUNK
BEST WHEN SMILING.
ISANAMI...
AGREE!
IF YOU WANT TO HURRY AND RESCUE HER, THEN I WANT YOU TO BE CALMER ABOUT IT!
FHH!
NOW, LET'S GET MOVING!
-WERE YOU EVEN LISTENING?!
GIVE ME A BREAK!

SO,
COULD YOU PLEASE TELL ME HOW ALL THIS CAME ABOUT?
UHH...
OHH?
UNCONCERNED
YOU ABRUPTLY LEFT ME IN CHARGE, WENT OFF TO IZUMO, AND THEN BROUGHT A WOMAN BACK WITH YOU. AND NOW THAT IS ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY?
I BROUGHT A WOMAN BACK WITH ME, AND THERE YOU HAVE IT!
OF COURSE I DID
I CAN HANDLE THINGS FINE IN YOUR ABSENCE.
I'M SURE YOU TOOK GOOD CARE OF EVERYTHING.

THAT IS NOT WHAT I MEANT.
I AM ASKING YOU EXACTLY WHO THAT WOMAN IS.
SIT BACK DOWN!!
THEN IT'S ALL GOOD.
I'M GONNA TAKE A BATH.
GUEST?! THEN WHY IS SHE IN CONFINEMENT?!
DON'T TELL ME SHE'S A CRIMINAL FROM SOME OTHER PROVINCE?
SHE'S AN IMPORTANT GUEST FROM IZUMO!
TREASURE?
I SMELL TROUBLE AGAIN
CRIMINAL?!
SHE'S A TREASURE.

TOKUGAWA'S TOO BUSY LAYING THE GROUNDWORK IN VARIOUS PROVINCES TO MAKE A MOVE.
SHE'S A TREASURE FOR OVERTURNING THIS ABSURD LULL IN ACTIVITY.
I CONSIDERED DESTROYING HER.
BUT SHE MAY HAVE AN INTERESTING USE.

UNTIL THEN, SHE'S OUR IMPORTANT GUEST.
TREAT HER WITH COURTESY.
NOW, TIME FOR THAT BAAATH!
I'LL MAKE IT A CITRON BATH TODAY
WON'T SOMEONE COME AFTER HER?
IF SHE'S A TREASURE
THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE WHO CAN BREAK INTO THERE!

SOMETHING'S FISHY ABOUT THAT ESTATE...
IF IS/NAMI'S IN THERE...
WHEN MOON HIDDEN, I GO!
I'LL SECURE YOUR ESCAPE ROUTE.
!!
FLINCH
SECURITY SHOULD BE TIGHTER THAN THIS...
WHAT MIGHT YOU BE DISCUSSING?

THIEVES!
SHAA
DATE NINJAS!
SHHFA

SHOOM
YOU WON'T ESCAPE!
SPRING
SHHH
THESE NUMBERS... ISANAMI HERE AFTER ALL!
THWP

SPANG
WHNN
THOP
!!
SHMM

THMP
HE'S QUI-
SHRIP
GUH!
WHY YOU...!
SHMM
THERE'S FOG DOWN THERE...!
HOHHN
IGA FOLLOWER FREEZING ART,

*MEANING "DISTANT SEAS."

CLATA
THUNK
...!
ISANAMI!!
...
...SASUKE?
...

LORD YUKIMURA WORRIED.
WE GO BACK TO UEDA.
RESCUE YOU NOW!
HOLD ON MINUTE!
SAFE?!
MHMM ...
...WHAT ABOUT SAIZO AND KAKEI?
MESSAGE CAME.
ON WAY HOME.

SASUKE...
—GOOD.
I'M NOT GOING BACK TO UEDA.

## Act.17 Rescue / Save from the Darkness

COME IN!!
WHUMP
HO HO
CHFF
-OWW!
THEY SURE DON'T THINK MUCH OF A LADY'S FACE!
WHERE'S THIS NINJA FROM?
ACTUALLY, IS SHE HUMAN? HER HAIR AND EYES ARE WEIRD COLORS.
ISN'T SHE ONE OF THOSE, Y'KNOW, THOSE SOUTHERN BARBARIANS?
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A *SOUTHERN BARBARIAN?
NOPE, NEVER.

*THIS TERM WAS USED TO DESCRIBE EUROPEANS WHO VISITED JAPAN PRIOR TO THE EDO PERIOD. IT'S BASED ON AN OLD CHINESE TERM THAT ITSELF WAS USED ACCURATELY. BUT IN THIS CASE IT WAS NOT SO ACCURATELY APPLIED MAINLY TO SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE TRADERS WHO SAILED UP (FROM THE SOUTH) ALONG INDIAN AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN COLONIAL TRADE ROUTES TO JAPAN.

...!
I KNEW IT!
WE NEED TO ASK HER LOTS OF QUESTIONS.
AHEM
GLANCE
-ANYWAY,
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED WITH ISANAMI.
I HOPE YOU MANAGED TO RESCUE HER, SASUKE..!

...DAY DAWNED.
I'M NOT GOING BACK TO UEDA.
SASUKE...
WHY?!

GO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO BRING BACK YOUR FELLOW BRAVE!
WHAT HAPPENED ISANAMI?!
NOT MAKE BYB CONTACT ONCE
WHAT NOW ?!
TURU
TURU
TURU
TURU
PSSSHH
NOT FIT TO BE HEAD NINJA IF CAN'T CARRY OUT!
BUT LORD YUKIMURA'S ORDER ABSOLUTE!
B-BUT, CAN'T FORCE.
SHE NOT WANT COME.
—FAIL.
SORRY STAY HERE MY LORDS
HNN
AHHHHH!
BOOM
CAPACITY EXCEEDED.

びくっ FLINCH
!!
GCHAK
カリ
チャッ
STARE
HE-
HELLO!!
THRUST
I HAVE FOOD FOR YOU!!

SILENCE
TURN
AHHH
YOU DON'T WANT FOOD?
TUNK
W-WELL, HOW ABOUT SWEETS? THERE'S TEA, TOO!
...I DON'T WANT ANYTHING
I DON'T THINK IT'S HEALTHY IF YOU DON'T EAT ANY-THING
YOU'RE PROBABLY ANXIOUS ABOUT BEING BROUGHT HERE AND ALL,
BUT DON'T WORRY. OUR LORD IS KIND TO GIRLS.
...KIND? EVEN THOUGH HE KIDNAPS THEM?

UM...
THAT'S, I MEAN.
I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED, OR SOMETHING...
WHAT'RE YOU UP TO, ICHIMARU?!
BECAUSE YOU HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT, SO...
KRIK
!!
M-MY LORD...!
WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO APPROACH HER, WERE WE?
N-NO, MY LORD! EXCUSE ME!
SCOOP
YEAH, YOU CAN WOO HER SOME OTHER TIME.

NOW THEN,
I WANT TO TALK TO YOU. COULD YOU LOOK THIS WAY?
UMM .?
YOU KNOW, I NEVER ASKED YOU YOUR NAME!
WHAT IS IT?
OF COURSE SHE WON'T JUST ANSWER.
LEAN
WEREN'T YOU TAUGHT TO LOOK SOMEONE IN THE EYE WHEN YOU TALK TO THEM?!
GRAB
HERE.
TURN
!
SWIRL
LIKE THIS.

SO, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
THAT'S BETTER.
—ISANA-MI...
COME AGAIN?!
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN, WHEN YOU'VE KIDNAPPED ME?!
...NICE TO MEET YOU?
I'M MASAMUNE DATE.
NICE TO MEET YOU, ISANAMI!

IT'S BECAUSE YOU MIGHT BE WITH US FOR A LONG TIME.
YOU AND THE KUSHIMITAMA.
WHIP
!!
NOW I SEE WHY TOKUGAWA COULDN'T FIND IT, THOUGH.
ALL THIS TIME, IT WAS A HAIRPIN.
LOOK!!
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT!
GOOD-LUCK CHARM?
IT'S JUST A GOOD-LUCK CHARM... IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL...
IT WAS MY GOOD-LUCK CHARM...
SQUEEZE
OR THAT'S WHAT I WAS TOLD.

HMM.
-EVERY-BODY GOT HURT BE-CAUSE OF IT.
SAIZO...
A GIRL-CHILD LIKE HER IS A "TREA-SURE"..?
IS LORD MASAMUNE TELLING THE TRUTH?

THE KUSHIMITAMA WAS ENTRUSTED TO YOU, SO I FIGURE THERE MUST BE SOMETHING TO YOU, TOO.
WELL IN ANY CASE, YOU'RE GOING TO STAY HERE FOR A WHILE.
ポフ
AWOOF
COME ON, DON'T BE SO SCARED!
!
!!
I'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT.
I DON'T GET OFF ON MAKING KIDS CRY.
AHH! ANYTHING BUT SENDING YOU BACK TO UEDA!
SORRY.
..I WOULDN'T SAY THAT.
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR
LET'S GO, KOJURO.

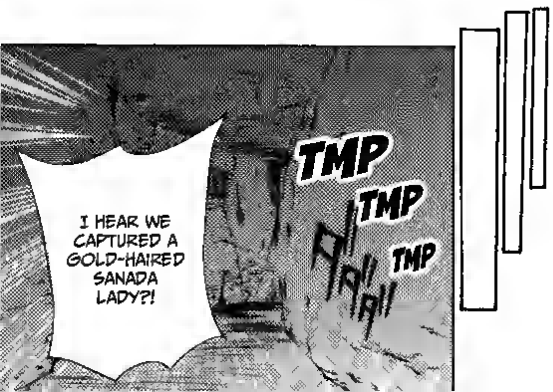
...
MY NAME IS KOJURO KATAKURA.
CALL FOR ME, SHOULD YOU NEED ANYTHING.
WE WILL TAKE OUR LEAVE.
OH! YES, YES.

SOME PEOPLE SNUCK IN HERE LAST NIGHT.
ONE OF THEM GOT AWAY, BUT WE CAPTURED A WOMAN
I'LL QUESTION HER, EVEN IF YOU WON'T TALK.
...
HE MEANS SA-SUKE AND ANA-NA!
BTAM

ANA... I WONDER IF THEY'RE DOING HORRIBLE THINGS TO HER...
SHE GOT CAUGHT...?
IT'S MY FAULT.
EVERY-THING THAT'S HAPPE-NED UNTIL NOW...
IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
EVERY-THING THAT HAP-PENED AT IZUMO AND UEDA

I'M HUNTED, I SUFFER...
I WISH I'D NEVER MET ANY OF THEM.
I HURT THE PEOPLE WHO HELP ME.
I GOT THEM MIXED UP IN THIS.
WHY AM I EVEN ALIVE?

WHY?
WHY WAS I EVER BORN?


I HEAR WE CAPTURED A GOLD-HAIRED SANADA LADY?!
TMP
TMP
TMP

GCHAK
ガチャ
SHUT UP, NIKO!
YOU SHUT UP!
OHO! IT'S HER, IN THE FLESH!
SHE'S PRETTY STUBBORN, TOO...
FRIGGIN' PASSED OUT BEFORE SHE COULD SAY A WORD.
OHoo!
GULP
ゴクリ
WE'RE ABOUT TO TRY THE NEXT STEP.
"NEXT STEP," YOU MEAN...
YEAH, WE ALL DISCUSSED IT, AND AGREED TO CHANGE OUR AP-PROACH
SURE, IF SHE WERE A MAN. Y'KNOW?!
I MEAN, CAN'T THAT WAIT UNTIL AFTER WE'VE... SAMPLED HER?
THERE'S NOTHING THAT SAYS WE CAN'T TORTURE HER WHILE WE SAMPLE HER...
FOR REAL?!
HEH HEH HEH

OH WHY NOT?! I WAS ON THAT LONG-ASS TRIP AND HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANY IN FOREVER!!
SO WHAT?!
FINE, FINE. LET'S BE FAIR ABOUT THIS AND USE ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS
READY, SET!
THIS IS STUPID
...
ME!! ME FIRST!!
SCREW YOU, NIKO!! YOU GOT TO THIS PARTY LATE, SO WHY YOU FIRST?!
ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS!
SHAKE SHAKE
WHAT?!
AWW!
ISANAMI WON'T LEAVE?!
COME ON, SASUKE! I'M GOING TO THE TROUBLE OF KEEPING THESE GUYS BUSY FOR YOU!
SPLASH
NOW!! WAKE UP ALREADY SO WE CAN HAVE SOME FUN, GIRLY!!
!!
HEYYY, I BROUGHT THE WATER!
SHLOP SHLOP
SHLOP
YES!
I GET THE FIRST RIDE!!

BEND
BACHING
BLINK
AGH! STUPID...! SHE CAN...
IGA FOLLOWER FREEZING ART,
THRUST
*SOHYOGA!!
CHINK CHINK CHINK CHINK CHINK CHINK CHINK CHINK CHINK
OH!
WAH!
*SPEAR ICE FLOWER

SHAP
CHING
CHNK
TSSSS
CLACK
MAYBE I'LL GO FETCH A CERTAIN UNREASONABLE YOUNG LADY.
AS IF!!
WAIT, GOLD-HAIRED LADY!!
LET ME HAVE A BANG!

I GUESS SASUKE ISN'T VERY RELIABLE.
VMMM
BOLT
!!
...
ANA...
HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE...?
JING
HA-HA!
MEN ARE SO EASY TO DEAL WITH.

LEAVE ME HERE!
SINK
I'M NEVER GOING BACK!!
ANA... YOU'RE ALL BEAT UP...
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
NOW!
...
ONCE YOU CALM DOWN, LET'S GO.
IF... I...
EVERYONE'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
I CAN'T DO THAT.

IF I GO BACK, I'LL CAUSE TROUBLE FOR EVERY-ONE!!
I DON'T WANT THAT!!
SO... THAT'S IT...
SQUEEZE

YOU'RE AFRAID OF HURTING EVERY-BODY.
YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE RESPON-SIBLE FOR IT ALL.
YOU THINK YOU JUST NEED TO GO AWAY.
...
ISANAMI.
...!

ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE THE HEROINE IN SOME TRAGIC TALE?
YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE PEOPLE GET HURT...
SO YOU LOOK DOWNWARD AND COVER YOUR EARS.
THAT'S THE EASIEST WAY.
IF YOU TAKE PITY ON YOURSELF AND LOOK AWAY FROM IT ALL, YOU WON'T SUFFER,
BUT...

I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU.
YOU'RE A BRAVE, AREN'T YOU?
F-FIGHT...? BUT I'M...
NOT STRONG
STRENGTH ISN'T JUST ABOUT BEING STRONG
IT'S ALSO IN THE COURAGE TO MOVE FORWARD!!
I...
GYANK
WHAT IS RUNNING AWAY GOING TO SOLVE?!
FIGHT!!
STRENGTH...
IT'S ALL RIGHT. YOU HAVE YOUR OWN COURAGEOUS STRENGTH.
RIGHT HERE IN YOUR HEART.
TMP
INSIDE ME...
DON'T YOU?!

ISANAMI.
...!
MHMM.
SHE'S RIGHT, THIS IS ABOUT ME.
I'VE GOT TO STAND UP, IF I DON'T WANT TO CRY.
EGH!
GATA
I'M FINE.
NOW, CAN YOU STAND?
RETREAT SECURE!
LET'S GO!
—ISANAMI
!

NONE OF US AFRAID OF GETTING HURT.
AFTER ALL, I'M A BRAVE!!
NOT ME,
OR SAIZO,
OR LORD YUKIMURA.
ME... NEI-THER...
WE'LL FACE THIS TOGETHER!!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
TRMP
TRMP
EVERY SINGLE GUARD IS DOWN!!
TCH!
WHAM

—SHE'S GONE.
SHE WAS ABDUCTED...
YOU MUST PUT SOME THOUGHT INTO YOUR ACT—
HEH! HEH HEH HEH HEH!
LORD... MASA-MUNE?
LIKE I SAID, THEY'D COME AFTER HER IF SHE'S A TREASURE!!
THIS HAPPENED BECAUSE YOU WERE OVERCONFI-DENT IN OUR SECURITY!!
HAH HAH HAH HAH HAH!
YE GODS, HE'S GONE AND DONE IT NOW!!

I HAVE TO ADMIRE THE BASTARD WHO'D SNATCH HIS TREASURE BACK OUT OF MY OWN HOUSE!
THAT'S INCREDIBLE!
HEH HEH HEH!
IF ANYBODY CAN MIX IT UP AT MY LEVEL, IT'S HIM!
HE'S THE ONE, HE HAS TO BE!
JUST ONCE, I'D LOVE TO MEET YOU IN PERSON... YUKIMURA SANADA.

VOLUME 3/THE END
To be continued in
Volume 4

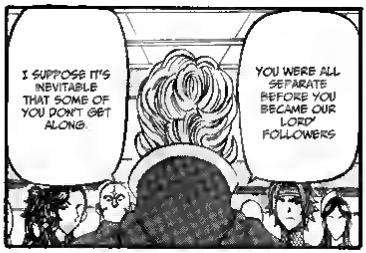
SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION

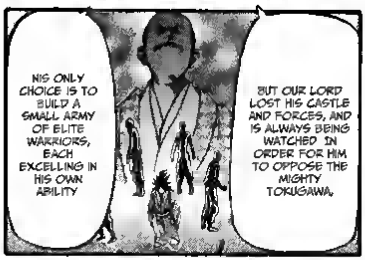
Kai Ohba

# My Lord and me

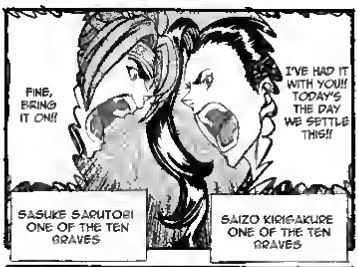
Brave 10 Official Edition

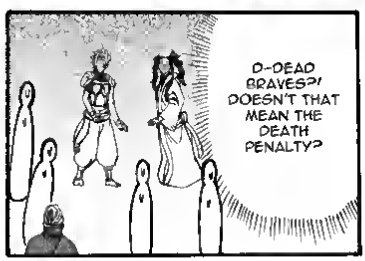
## The Lord and his Ten Braves ②





HIS ONLY CHOICE IS TO BUILD A SMALL ARMY OF ELITE WARRIORS, EACH EXCELLING IN HIS OWN ABILITY
BUT OUR LORD LOST HIS CASTLE AND FORCES, AND IS ALWAYS BEING WATCHED IN ORDER FOR HIM TO OPPOSE THE MIGHTY TOKUGAWA.

## The Lord and his Ten Braves ①

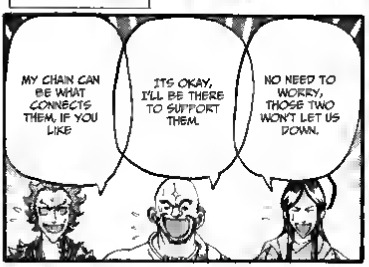

FINE, BRING IT ON!!
I'VE HAD IT WITH YOU!! TODAY'S THE DAY WE SETTLE THIS!!
SASUKE SARUTOBI ONE OF THE TEN BRAVES
SAIZO KIRIGAKURE ONE OF THE TEN BRAVES



YUKIMURA SANADA AND MASAMUNE DATE PLAY BIG PARTS, TOO!!
THE HIGHLY POPULAR WARRING STATES ERA 4-PANEL MANGA
"MY LORD AND ME" VOLUME 1 IS ON SALE NOW FROM MF COMICS.

## The Lord and his Ten Braves ④

BUT IF I SAY SOMETHING NOW TO SEIZE THE MOMENT, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIX THAT. HERE GOES...
SASUKE AND SAIZO GET ALL THE ATTENTION, AND ALL I GET IS NEGLECT...
JUZO KAKEI, ONE OF THE TEN BRAVES
DTHUMP
DTHUMP


MY CHAIN CAN BE WHAT CONNECTS THEM, IF YOU LIKE
IT'S OKAY, I'LL BE THERE TO SUPPORT THEM.
NO NEED TO WORRY, THOSE TWO WON'T LET US DOWN.

## The Lord and his Ten Braves ③

SASUKE AND SAIZO, I NEED YOU TWO IN PARTICULAR TO COOPERATE AND SET AN EXAMPLE FOR EVERYONE ELSE
I BELIEVE WHEN YOU ALL BECOME ONE AND YOUR POWERS MESH FOR OUR LORD, THAT IS WHEN WE'LL BE ABLE TO OVERTHROW TOKUGAWA.

To be continued in Volume 4!!

WOOWEE!
XXXV
ICHIMARU AND NIKO'S DAILY GRIND.
TRUDGE
TRUDGE
TRUDGE
AHHH, SO RELAXING.
WE FINALLY MADE IT BACK TO OUR HOME TURF.
OH, THANKS!
I HEAR THERE'S SOME FOOD FOR YOU IN THERE, TOO.
YOU GUYS HAVE A DIFFERENT ROOM NOW!
ICHIMARU! NIKO!
カラッ
CLATA
FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD
OH?

DOOM
WHAT THE HELL?!
EEEEK!
XXY
IT'S SO CRUEL!! WHAT'S WITH THIS TREATMENT?!
XXXX
IT'S JUST AS BAD AS WHEN WE WERE HIRED OUT!
FICKLED RADISH AGAIN...
OH HEY, KATAKURA. WHAT IS ALL THIS?!
COLDLY
WHY, IT'S THE TREATMENT THAT REFLECTS THE QUALITY OF YOUR WORK.
WE USE A COMMISSION SYSTEM HERE.
WAHHHH!
WE COME HOME, AND WE'RE STILL POOR?!

# AFTERWORD

HELLO THERE. THIS IS KAIRI SHIMOTSUKI.

- OUR NEW CHARACTER THIS TIME WAS KOJURO SCARY-FACE KATAKURA. HE'S PITCH BLACK (HIS CLOTHES ARE, AT LEAST). THERE'S GOING TO BE NEW STORY DEVELOPMENTS AGAIN IN THE NEXT VOLUME, SO PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK IT OUT.

- THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO POSTED ON MY WEBSITE. I CAN'T RESPOND ALL THE TIME, BUT I'D BE HAPPY IF YOU KEPT POSTING.

- THAT'S THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT, SO I HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN IN THE NEXT VOLUME.

03/XX/2008 AS AN OWL STARES AT ME.

+ MANY THANKS

MY EDITOR, I-SAMA
ALL MY READERS
EVERYONE INVOLVED WITH THIS BOOK

+ STAFF

- SHINO TAKAOKA
- MIZUYOSHI
- TOKINON
- HARUKA SHINONOME

# BRAVE 10 3

KAIRI SHIMOTSUKI

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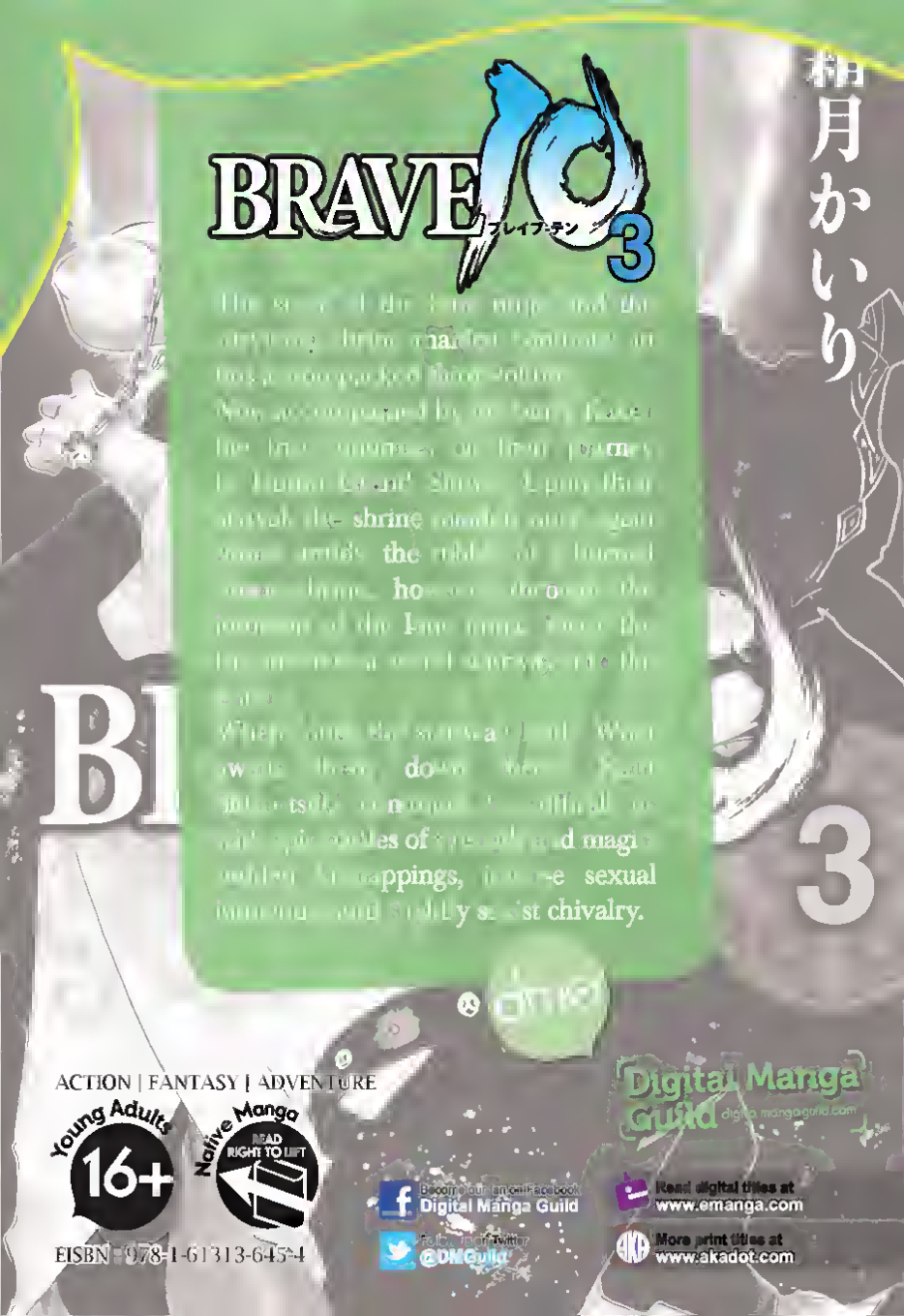
# BRAVE 10 3

柏月かいり



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